

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4251

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SG, PINS, PINT, PGOV
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR:
SENEGALESE POLITICS

1. SUMMARY. DURING TWO-HOUR PRIVATE DINNER WHICH HE GAVE FOR ANDRE COULBARY, HIS AMBASSADOR TO US, AND AMBASSADOR AND MRS. AGGREY, JULY 19, PRESIDENT SENGHOR COMMENTED ON VARIOUS AFRICAN, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, MIDDLE EAST AND INTERNAL SENEGALESE ISSUES. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS SENGHOR'S VIEWS ON INTERNAL POLITICAL ISSUES. PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAID HE WOULD RUN FOR RE-ELECTION AS PRESIDENT IN 1978. CURRENTLY, SENGHOR IS CONCERNED ABOUT EXTERNAL COMMUNIST ASSISTANCE TO CLANDESTINE SENEGALESE OPPOSITION AND ABOUT PERSISTENT CORRUPTION IN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ELSEWHERE IN GOS. END SUMMARY.

2. 1978 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAID HE WOULD RUN AGAIN FOR THE LAST TIME FOR SENEGALESE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENCY IN 1978 IF HIS HEALTH HELD OUT. (ELECTION

IS DUE IN JANUARY 1978.) HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THIS EFFORTS TO PREPARE HIS SUCCESSION BUT HE DESIRED TO DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO SEE THAT SENEGAL MAINTAINED CERTAIN STANDARDS OF QUALITY AND THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE GOVERNED WITH BEST INTERESTS OF ITS CITIZENS IN MIND.

3. LEFTWING OPPOSITION. WHEN ASKED BY AMBASSADOR WHETHER THERE WERE ANY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WHICH GAVE HIM PARTICULAR CONCERN, SENGHOR CITED COMMUNIST INFLUENCES IN CLANDESTINE POLITICS AND GRAFT IN PUBLIC SERVICE. ON THE FORMER, HE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO BE TOUGH WITH PEOPLE LIKE LANDING SAVANE, WHO WERE "TELEGUIDED" BY EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS OF EXTREME LEFT, PARTICULARLY FROM SWEDEN AND FRANCE. ON QUESTION OF RECENT ARREST OF GROUP FOR DISSEMINATING ILLEGAL POLITICAL TRACTS (DAKAR 3932), SENGHOR SAID HE HAD RECEIVED QUITE A FEW LETTERS. AMBASSADOR TO US COULBARRY, WHO WAS PRESENT, INTERJECTED THAT SOME OF THESE LETTERS HAD COME FROM US. SENGHOR SAID HE IMMEDIATELY FILED ALL OF THEM. HOWEVER, WHAT DISTURBED HIM MOST WAS CALCULATED APPROACH LEFTISTS TOOK IN SENDING COPIES OF THEIR LETTERS PROTESTING THE ARRESTS TO MEMBERS OF THE NOBEL PRIZE JURY. THAT IS ONEHONOR THAT SO FAR HAS ESCAPED SENGHOR AND HE CONSIDERS SUCH A TACTIC STRIKING AT THE VITALS, BUT HE SAID IT WOULD NOT CHANGE COUNTRY'S STRONG STAND AGAINST INTERNAL SUBVERSION.

4. CORRUPTION. ON QUESTION OF GRAFT, SENGHOR SAID WIDE-SPREAD CORRUPTION IN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS LED TO HOUSECLEANING IN THAT DEPARTHOPT. AS MINISTER, DIARAF DIOUF HAD BEEN HONEST INDIVIDUAL BUT WEAK ADMINISTRATOR, AND HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CRACK DOWN ON BRIBE TAKING IN DEPARTMENT. THEREFORE, HE HAD BEEN REPLACED BY MAMADOU DIOP, FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY WHO WAS LAWYER AND SEASONED CIVIL SERVANT, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, A FORMER GENDARME. SENGHOR SAID HE ALSO HAD TO FIRE MAGATTE SOW, AS DIRECTOR OF DAKAR INTERNATIONAL FAIR BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE GRAFT INVOLVED IN THAT OPERATION.

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